A force for road-safety good?

A traffic-enforcement police force like Alberta's could help put the brakes on highway fatalities in Saskatchewan: Experts PAGE 3

LOVELY RITA ORA

JAY-Z'S PROTEGÉ ADMIRES CONFIDENT WOMEN, SAYS J. LO IS HER SKIN IDOL AND LISTENS TO HER MOM'S ADVICE ON BEAUTY — SOMETIMES PAGE 16

SASKATOON metro®

Thursday, December 13, 2012

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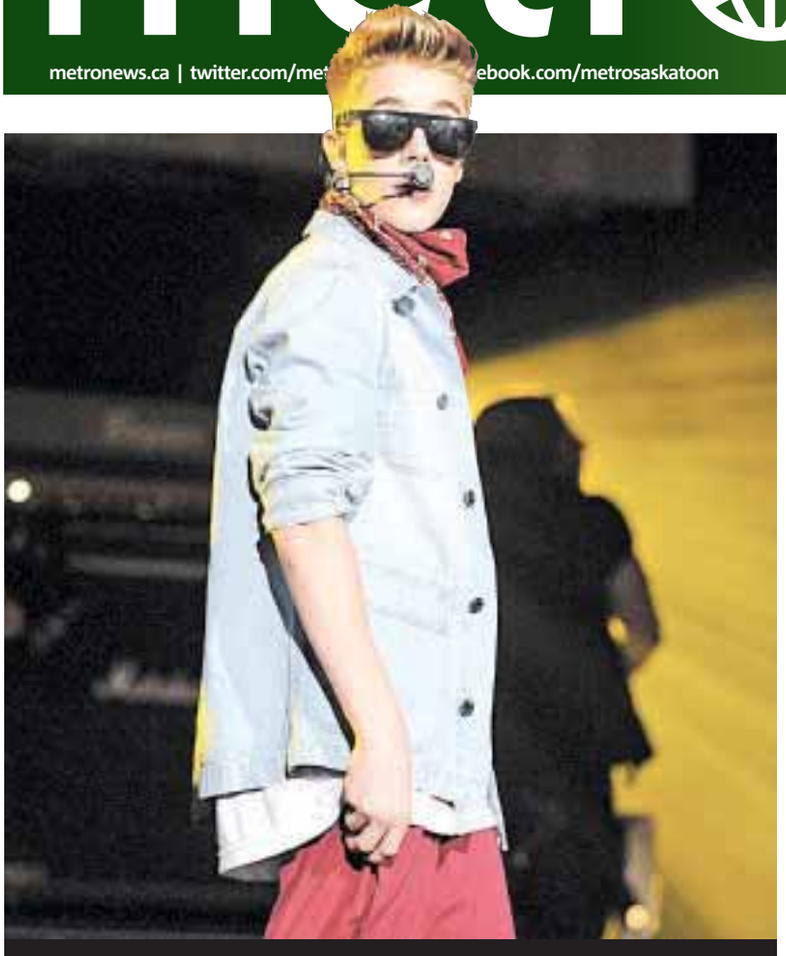

BIEBER MURDER PLOT?

Belieb it or not: Justin Bieber was the apparent target of a grisly murder plot concocted by an inmate in New Mexico, state police said yesterday. When asked to comment, the singer's management released a statement saying only that they take "every precaution to protect and ensure the safety of Justin and his fans." Story, page 9.

CHRIS MCKAY/GETTY IMAGES FOR JINGLE BALL 2012

System unfair to mom, kids, advocate says

Investigation. Actions of child-welfare officials 'may well have affected the bond' between rehabilitated mother and children: Report

Saskatchewan's children's advocate says two kids and their rehabilitated mother were not treated fairly by the child-welfare system.

Bob Pringle said it was correct for Social Services to take the boy and girl from their mother, who was a drug addict and prostitute. Pringle also said ministry staff initially took the right steps to reunite the family by working with the mother to help her get better.

But he said those efforts stopped when the ministry sought permanent wardship of the kids in 2008 — even though policy says it should have continued.

Changes to system

Andrea Brittin, executive director of service delivery for Child and Family Services, said in February that a provincewide review is underway to ensure compliance on all court orders.

- She added that annual department audits will now include a review of whether court orders are followed and staff training will emphasize the issue.

That was unfair to both the mother and her children and something that needs to be acknowledged by the system, he said.

"We believe the decision to not provide concurrent planning and continue to work cooperatively with (the mother) may well have affected the bond between the children and their mother," Pringle said in a report released Wednesday.

Pringle said once the relationship between child-welfare workers and the mother dissolved, "adversarial positions became entrenched."

That led to fewer supervised family visits — even though they were court-ordered — and a lack of consideration of the parent's progress or options other than permanent wardship for the children, he said.

Pringle launched a rare administrative-fairness investigation into the case in January after a court decision garnered media attention.

The advocate's report noted that the mother turned her life around. In April 2009, she told the ministry that she was addressing her health needs. She got her own home and completed two addiction-treatment programs.

"This information was not assessed as progress ... and was not given due consideration in reducing the assessed risk," said Pringle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Adilman Drive

Police investigate discovery of human remains by riverbank

Saskatoon police are investigating the discovery of human remains near the South Saskatchewan river.

At approximately 2 p.m. Wednesday, police say officers were dispatched to the east end of Adilman Drive after receiving a report of found human remains.

Police have secured the area and investigators from the major crimes section and forensic technicians are examining the scene.

No other details were released Wednesday. METRO

Regina

Men found guilty in fatal stabbing

Ronald Zerr and Ashton Lavallee have been found guilty of manslaughter in the fatal 2008 stabbing of Albert Lowenberger outside King's Head Tavern in Regina. Zerr and Lavallee are to be sentenced Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CJME

Bjorkdale

Small-town Co-op store completely levelled in blaze

A Co-op store in a small community in east-central Saskatchewan has burned to the ground.

The fire broke out Tuesday night at the store in Bjorkdale.

The community's fire department, along with crews from Tisdale and Porcupine Plain, battled the blaze.

They couldn't save the store but did stop the fire from spreading to the nearby gas bar.

There's no word on a cause or damage estimate.

The Co-op was one of the few businesses in Bjorkdale, which has a population of just over 200. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Traffic-specific police force may lower highway deaths: Experts

Accident prevention. Alberta has 107 sheriffs dedicated to traffic enforcement

MORGAN MODJESKI
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With 155 deaths on provincial highways in Saskatchewan this year, some experts say a traffic-enforcement police force could be the right move for the province.

Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti, a professor at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health, an emergency room physician and a specialist in injury prevention, said he feels a force like the Alberta traffic sheriffs would benefit Saskatchewan.

"In Alberta we've created sheriffs, and the sheriffs' responsibilities are to enforce traffic safety. Unfortunately, the RCMP and most police forces don't view traffic as a high priority," said Francescutti.

Gerry Shimko, the executive director of Edmonton's Office of Traffic Safety, echoed Francescutti, adding he feels a traffic-specific police force would contribute to lowering the number of highway deaths.

"It's complex but it would be helpful," said Shimko.

"Obviously there are better synergies when you have people who are dedicated to specific tasks, versus a general police officer, who has much more functionality and priorities (that) are different," he said.

Rebecca Schulz, manager of media relations with SGI, said although there are currently no plans to implement a traffic-enforcement police force, SGI is concerned about the rise in highway fatalities and are constantly examining what other provinces are doing in terms of traffic safety.

Although no one from the Saskatchewan RCMP was available for comment before deadline, they do have a unit dedicated to traffic enforcement in the province.

Quoted

"We are always monitoring what other jurisdictions like Alberta are doing in terms of traffic safety. We consider those results and we look at how applicable they are in Saskatchewan."

Rebecca Schulz, manager of media relations with SGI

Some experts say a police force like Alberta's traffic sheriffs, dedicated to traffic enforcement in Saskatchewan, would help lower the number of highway fatalities. SHEILA STEELE/FLICKR

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Sandy Karst, manager of the city's lost and found, poses for a photo in one of the stranger items that's been turned in: a 16-foot canoe. MORGANMODJESKI/METRO

Lost and found saw more than 4,000 items in 2012

Is this your canoe?
Manager surprised by how few people come to claim items at city's growing collection of lost goods

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

This weekend may be your last chance to reclaim lost belongings in the City of Saskatoon, as a number of items from the city's lost and found will be going to auction this Saturday.

Sandy Karst, manager of the city's lost and found with the Saskatoon Police Service, says they've received about 4,000 items this year, not including roughly 560 bikes, and she says she's always surprised at how few people come to try and claim lost items.

"I don't think they're aware that it's here or how much we take in," said Karst. "We could have your lost property here, whether it be from the bus or (if) you dropped it on the street."

"Usually when people lose things, they don't know where they've lost it, so they have no idea where to go looking for it ... if they were to come and try here, that might help."

The city's lost and found receives an average of 300 items a month and is located at 330 Ontario Avenue.

Auction

The auction will be held by McDougall Auctioneers Ltd. on Dec. 15.

Alongside the usual items, which include car keys and cell phones, Linda Guenther, a long-time clerk of the lost and found, says they've seen some stranger items as well.

"I picked up a canoe," said Guenther. "There was a great big 16-foot canoe that we found in a back alley."

When asked how something as big as a canoe gets lost, she explained, "A citizen will phone in and say, 'There's a canoe in the back alley and it's not mine,' ... and if there's any identifying marks, serial numbers we record all that and if someone has reported it stolen they'll get it back."

Crime quell

Police chief weighs in on the year in review

With decreasing crime, stronger partnerships and positive public perception, Police Chief Clive Weighill is feeling good about the work done by the Saskatoon Police Service in 2012.

"I think 2012 has been very steady for us," said Weighill. "The trend is positive."

The latest statistics available compare October 2012 to October 2011. They show that crimes against the person — such as assaults and harassments — decreased by 15.48 per cent, and property crime went down 3.44 per cent.

Weighill said the trend can be attributed to increasing police presence on the streets in 2012 and partnerships with other services in the city.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

SaskPower

Province approves power rate hikes

The cost of electricity is going up in Saskatchewan.

The province has approved a request by SaskPower to hike rates 4.9 per cent, effective January 1st.

SaskPower Minister Bill Boyd says the hike is needed to fund investments in the province's electrical system and keep up with Saskatchewan's growing economy, while at the same time maintaining safe and reliable electrical service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UN war-crimes tribunal convicts Bosnian Serb officer of genocide

Srebrenica massacre. 'Right hand' of Ratko Mladic found guilty of having lead role in 1995 murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys

A UN war-crimes court convicted a former senior Bosnian Serb army commander Wednesday of genocide for playing a key role in Europe's worst massacre since World War II and sentenced him to life imprisonment, delivering another measure of justice to survivors still hunting for the remains of their husbands and sons.

In a majority ruling, a three-judge panel at the Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal said Gen. Zdravko Tolimir was the "right hand" of Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic, who is considered the chief architect of the murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys at the Srebrenica enclave in eastern Bosnia in July 1995.

"The accused not only had knowledge of genocidal intent of others but also possessed it himself," Presiding Judge Christoph Fluegge said. "He is therefore responsible for the crime of genocide."

Women who lost their menfolk in the massacre travelled to The Hague to watch the judgment and were pleased with the latest conviction.

"Finally, we witnessed a small bit of justice," said Munira Subasic, leader of a group called the Mothers of Srebrenica. "We are still alive to witness it and we are still searching for the bones of our sons."

Tolimir stood, crossed himself three times and removed his glasses but showed no emotion as Fluegge told him he had been convicted of genocide and would spend the rest of his life in prison.

Before the judgment was read, he told the court: "I wish for these proceedings to be concluded in accordance with God's will."

Tolimir, 64, is the latest Serb soldier to be convicted of genocide in the bloody climax of Bosnia's 1992-95 war that left around 100,000 dead.

He was found guilty of seven charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and the war crime of murder. He was acquitted of one count of deportation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small solace

"This is what we expected, and we feel better now. We hope the court will continue to conduct fair trials."

Srebrenica widow Rejha Avdic, 50, who lost her husband in the massacre

In this photo taken Tuesday during a gathering in the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla, 149 kilometres north of Sarajevo, survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre hold photographs of male relatives who were killed. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1995

Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica in 1995.

- **UN.** The presence of Dutch United Nations peacekeepers who were outgunned, outnumbered and who put up virtually no resistance did not deter the Bosnian Serbs. They later took over another UN-protected enclave in the nearby town of Zepa.
- **Massacre.** Women were bused away from the area before the Muslim men and boys were rounded up, taken to remote locations around the town and executed. Their bodies were then plowed into mass graves.
- **Impact.** The judges also reflected on the genocide's effect on those who survived it, noting "the extreme suffering of the approximately 30,000-35,000 women and children forcibly removed."

Egyptian Coptic blogger gets 3 years for blasphemy

A Cairo court on Wednesday convicted a Coptic Christian blogger who shared an anti-Islam film on social networking sites and sentenced him to three years in prison for blasphemy and contempt of religion.

The case of Alber Saber is one of several seen by rights advocates as a campaign led by Egypt's ultra-conservative Islamists to curb free expression. Many of those targeted in the campaign are Christians, who make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's population of 85 million.

Saber was arrested Sept. 13 after neighbours complained he had shared on Facebook the amateur film made in the United States that sparked protests across the Muslim world. His arrest came during a wave of public outrage over the film, produced by an Egyptian-American Copt.

At the time, an angry mob surrounded Saber's house, calling for his death and accusing him of heresy, atheism and of promoting the Innocence of Muslims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free speech

"This is an outrageous verdict and sentence for a person whose only 'crime' was to post his opinions online."

Amnesty International's Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, condemning the verdict and demanding Saber be freed immediately and that all charges against him be dropped

Other convictions

- Another Egyptian court convicted in absentia seven other Coptic Christians and a Florida-based pastor, sentencing them to death on charges linked to the Innocence of Muslims.

Late BBC presenter is suspect in 199 crimes

The late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape, British police said Wednesday. They described the level of sexual abuse allegations against Savile as "unprecedented in the U.K."

The accusations against Savile, who died last year at age 84, grew after five women said during a TV program broadcast in October that they had been sexually abused by the presenter. The claims triggered a scandal that rocked the BBC, which has been accused of failing to report allegations against Savile while making shows praising him.

Police said they are putting together a report on Savile's activities based on the alleged victims' evidence, expected to be published early next year. On Wednesday, police published an update on the probe with the following details:

—199 crimes have been recorded in 17 police force jurisdictions in which Savile is a suspect.

—31 rape allegations have been recorded against the disgraced children's television presenter.

—450 people have come forward with information relating to Savile, mainly alleging sexual abuse.

—Some 140 other people also have reported information relating to Savile acting with others, or others acting alone.

Most of those people who came forward were women who alleged sexual abuse when they were young, police said.

A broader police investigation into sex abuse spurred by the claims against Savile has so far detained seven suspects for questioning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tories swallow a 'reset' pill to cure that F-35 headache

Bombshell report. Government will review the whole deal amid warnings costs could soar to $45.8 billion over 42 years

The Harper government has "hit the reset button" in the F-35 mess.

A bombshell report has exposed the cascading multibillion-dollar cost of the stealth aircraft.

The long-awaited KPMG report warns the Lockheed Martin-built F-35s could cost Canada as much as $45.8 billion over 42 years.

The report says National Defence neglected to build a large enough financial cushion into the plan to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet.

And the paltry-by-comparison $9 billion the department set aside likely won't be enough to cover the planned purchase of 65 jets.

Now the entire process will be reviewed, Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose said Wednesday.

"The next step is a full review of options," Ambrose told a news conference.

"We have hit the reset button and are taking the time to do a complete assessment of all available options.''

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the government will ensure "that balance is maintained between the military needs and taxpayer interests."

The NDP's critics were unmoved, insisting the government was steadfastly refusing to admit the whole process has been fumbled.

"You can't move on, you can't move forward until you've admitted that you've got a problem and that you've made mistakes,'' said Matthew Kellway, the party's procurement critic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Numbers game

65

The number of jets in the government's planned F-35 purchase. But the soaring costs may force a reduction to 55 planes.

That F-35 headache just won't go away. Defence Minister Peter MacKay takes part in a Parliament Hill news conference on the controversial fighter jets on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

N. Korea flies high over rocket, but UN brings it down to earth

Rocket-happy North Korea got an unhappy response on Wednesday from the United Nations Security Council.

It condemned the North Koreans' successful rocket launch and said it will urgently consider "an appropriate response.''

But whether that response includes new sanctions against the North — which the U.S. and its European allies are seeking — depends first and foremost on China, the North's closest ally.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in Beijing the council's response should be "prudent and moderate and conducive to maintaining stability and avoiding escalation of the situation."

The Security Council said the launch violates Security Council resolutions adopted after North Korea's nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Secretive North Korea also broke a ban on "any launch using ballistic missile technology," it complained.

"Members of the Security Council will continue consultation on an appropriate response ... given the urgency of the matter," the council statement said.

The successful rocket launch is widely seen as a test that takes North Korea one step closer to being capable of sending a nuclear-tipped warhead as far as California.

North Korea officials say the rocket is meant to send a satellite into orbit to study crops and weather patterns, and Pyongyang maintains its right to develop a civilian space program. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"(The launch) constitutes a very dangerous challenge to ... the security situation in the Korean peninsula and northeast Asia."

Kim Sook, South Korea's UN ambassador

The flames of anger burn in South Korea over the North's rocket launch. In Seoul, protesters burn a mock rocket only to see police move in with fire extinguishers. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cash or death

Skype scam almost pays off

Police are warning people to be on guard against fraudsters using Skype.

Kingston police say a resident got a Skype video call from a man identifying himself as a doctor held prisoner in Syria.

The supposed doctor said if $2,500 was not transferred to a Western Union office in Lebanon, he would be beheaded. The victim wired funds — but later contacted police and stopped the transfer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Software icon

McAfee booted from Guatemala

Anti-virus software founder John McAfee arrived in Miami Wednesday after being deported from Guatemala.

He had sneaked into Guatemala from Belize, where authorities want to question him in a homicide.

A posting on his website said he was at a hotel in Miami's upscale South Beach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dad who killed his children freed

A father who stabbed his children to death will be a free man, less than four years later.

Guy Turcotte has been granted his release, with conditions, from a psychiatric institution. The cardiologist had been found not criminally responsible for killing his two children and, since last year's court verdict, he had been in Montreal's Pinel institute.

His case provoked a torrent of outrage in Quebec, where Turcotte is a household name.

He had admitted to stabbing his young children 46 times but said he didn't remember doing it, hadn't wanted to do it and had been experiencing blackouts on the night of the killings.

He said he was distraught over the breakup of his marriage. His wife had left him for a family friend who was her personal trainer.

Turcotte's release was unanimously approved today by a three-member panel. He will have to get annual mental-health checkups, continue his therapy, stay out of trouble and avoid all contact with his ex-wife. But his legal woes are not over yet: The Crown has filed to appeal the 2011 court verdict.

The Tories plan to introduce a bill in the House of Commons early next year that would make the safety of the public the paramount factor for review boards that determine an offender's release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminal code plans

Several cases like Turcotte's, including the 2008 bus-beheading in Manitoba and the Schoenborn child-killings in B.C., have prompted a federal policy change. The Harper government plans to make it more difficult for mentally ill offenders found not criminally responsible to be released from custody.

Singer Justin Bieber at a Dec. 5 event in Philadelphia. A plot to murder the singer in November was foiled by police. LISA LAKE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Alleged plot to murder Justin Bieber thwarted

Disclaimer.
Warning: This story contains graphic details

A police affidavit alleges that two prison inmates and a nephew were hatching a plot to murder Justin Bieber and his director of security while the singer was in New York for shows on Nov. 28 and 29.

Details of the plan — which involved strangling two other victims with a paisley tie and then castrating them — were revealed on Wednesday in an affidavit for arrest obtained by New Mexico State Police.

But the plot may have been thwarted by a missed highway exit and a pair of recorded phone calls between an inmate and one of the accused.

The affidavit says the plan was hatched behind bars after inmate Dana Martin was transferred from a Florida prison to the Southern New Mexico Corrections Facility in April.

Martin, 45, serving a life sentence for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Vermont, was reportedly obsessed with Bieber. He had written him letters and even had a tattoo of the singer on his leg.

He allegedly recruited Mark Aaron Staake, 41, a fellow inmate at the time, after Staake noticed the tattoo on his leg. The plan was to kill four people in two states, with Bieber as the main target.

Oddly, the details were spilled on Nov. 20, when Martin asked to speak to police, telling them Staake (who had been released on probation on Oct. 22) and his nephew, Tanner Ruane, 23, had been planning to commit the first two murders — neither of them Bieber. New Mexico police declined to identify those intended victims.

Martin is serving consecutive life sentences for murders committed in 2000. The strangulation murder of the 15-year-old girl was a "case of jealousy," police told The Associated Press.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Suspected mastermind

- **Manipulator.** The police affidavit describes Martin as "a very good manipulator," who convinced Staake that he had access to large sums of money and a multimillion-dollar home and property, where Staake and Ruane could hide out.
- **Connections.** He also told Staake that he had connections to Chinese gangs in New York, who had "sanctioned" the murders, according to the affidavit.

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Intactivism. Germany clears up uncertainty around circumcision

German lawmakers approved a bill Wednesday that explicitly permits male-infant circumcision, ending months of uncertainty after a court ruling that the practice amounts to bodily harm led to an outcry from Jewish and Muslim groups.

Germany's government moved swiftly to draft a law following the Cologne regional court decision in June. The ruling didn't amount to a ban but raised fears of possible prosecutions.

Dieter Graumann, head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, expressed relief at the vote, which passed with 434 lawmakers in favour, 100 against and 46 abstaining.

Proponents of the law noted that failure to protect circumcision would have risked making Germany the only country in the world to ban the practice.

Orthodox Jews attend a meeting of Parliament in Berlin, Wednesday. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Critics of circumcision argue that the right of the child to bodily integrity trumps a parent's right to make a decision on his behalf.

A minority of lawmakers proposed that parents should have to wait until the boy can give informed consent, noting the procedure is irreversible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Espionage. British navy officer sentenced after MI5 sting operation

A Royal Navy petty officer who worked on nuclear submarines was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday for passing secrets to British agents impersonating Russian spies.

Edward Devenney, 30, was arrested in March after a sting operation headed by Britain's MI5. He pleaded guilty last month to breaching the Official Secrets Act.

"I have brought great shame to my family, loved ones and the submarine service," said Devenney, from Northern Ireland.

Lawyers said a series of personal blows preceded Devenney's betrayal. He had been accused but cleared of rape, was depressed and had been drinking heavily.

Prosecutor Mark Dennis also said Devenney had lost out on a promotion due to budget cuts and had been warned about excessive work absences.

Three days before Devenney met the supposed Russian agents in January — a meeting that came after he contacted the Russian Embassy — he was warned he would be discharged if his behaviour didn't improve by April.

Et tu, Devenney?

"This was a classic story of betrayal."

Mari Reid, of the Crown Prosecution Service's counterterrorism unit

Devenney, a 10-year navy veteran, had been a communications engineer on nuclear sub HMS Vigilant.

He had security clearance to go into a room where secret encrypted material was kept in a safe, though he wasn't authorized to open the safe or have a code for it, Dennis said.

Still, Devenney managed to take three pictures on his mobile phone that showed pieces of encrypted material that, if compromised, could have hampered the submarine's covert deployment. He had also offered to give the agents details of the movements of Vigilant, the prosecutor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mothers and children leave school as a sign prohibiting the use of marijuana in the area is seen in Amsterdam. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amsterdam to ban pot at school

Explicit legislation: My anti-drug.
Schools found it hard to enforce their own rules without clear law

Extracurricular activities

"It's not really what you have in mind as an educator, that children would be turning up for class stoned."

Amsterdam city spokesperson Iris Reshef

Amsterdam's mayor said Wednesday he would formally ban students from smoking marijuana at school, making the Dutch capital the first city in the Netherlands to do so.

Eberhard van der Laan's introduction of a law that in other countries either already exists or seems so obvious it wouldn't require a rule is the result of the Netherlands' unique drugs policy. Under the "tolerance" principle, marijuana is technically illegal, but police can't prosecute people for possession of small amounts.

That's the loophole that made possible Amsterdam's famed "coffee shops" — cafés where marijuana is sold openly. But it has also had the unwanted side effect that Dutch children are frequently exposed to the drug in public areas.

City spokeswoman Iris Reshef says schools have always forbidden pot but found it difficult to enforce the policy when students smoked on or near campus and challenged administrators to do anything about it.

After a change in national law, the city will now be able to declare as of Jan. 1 "no-toking zones" — areas like schools and playgrounds where weed-smoking is forbidden — under a public-nuisance ordinance. Police can then levy fines against students or anybody else who flouts the rules.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina in complete shock as accused sex slavers acquitted

The acquittal of 13 people accused in the disappearance of a young woman who was allegedly kidnapped and forced into prostitution for "VIP clients" spread shock and outrage across Argentina on Wednesday, prompting street protests, riots and calls by political leaders to impeach the three judges who delivered the verdict.

Many called the ruling a setback for Argentina's efforts to combat sex trafficking, which began largely as a result of Susana Trimarco's one-woman, decade-long quest to find her missing daughter, Maria de los Angeles "Marita" Veron. Her attorneys said she would pursue appeals.

Trimarco's search exposed an underworld of organized crime figures who operate brothels with protection from authorities across Argentina.

Defence lawyers dismissed the testimony of self-described sex-trade victims as lies, and the lack of any physical evidence linking the defendants to Veron proved decisive, the judges said in a brief explanation from the bench.

Security Minister Nilda Garre called the verdict "a tremendous slap in the face for the prospect of justice."

President Cristina Fernandez personally called Trimarco to express her surprise and outrage.

"I thought I would find her destroyed but I found her more together than ever, more committed to keep fighting," the president said.

Fernandez also said that while she can't prove it, she's sure that judicial corruption influenced the verdicts, showing the need to reform how judges are picked and allowed to remain in their jobs. Political rivals have called this campaign an attack on judicial independence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. fiscal cliff imperils energy, mining sectors

Canadian fallout.
Failure to reach deal would hit some types of companies especially hard, observers say

A plunge by Washington over the so-called fiscal cliff would hit Canadian miners and energy companies particularly hard since a slowdown in the U.S. economy would also drag down prices for base metals and oil.

Paul Taylor, chief investment officer for fundamental equities at BMO Asset Management, said Wednesday it will be the cyclical sectors that will be most affected if U.S. lawmakers fail to reach a deal to avoid the automatic tax hikes and spending cuts set to kick in next year.

"We are very much dependent on energy and materials, which represent, of course, nearly 50 per cent of the Canadian equity market by market cap," Taylor said.

"And with slower U.S. — and read from that, slower global — economic activity, you would have to expect that the price of base metals and energy on which we depend so heavily would be affected negatively, and they would certainly lose a bit." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumer concern

- A new poll by Sun Life Financial suggests 63 per cent of Canadians are concerned our economy will be hurt if a deal to avert the fiscal cliff is not reached.
- "Along with high debt levels and a slowing real estate market in Canada, the fiscal cliff situation in the U.S. is giving Canadians another reason to worry about the Canadian economy," said Sadiq Adatia, chief investment officer of Sun Life Global Investments.

Turning the page on e-readers

A young girl looks at a Sony e-reader at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October in Frankfurt, Germany. Sales of dedicated e-reading devices are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline" this year after five years of rapid growth, research firm IHS iSuppli says. Full-blown tablets with colour screens are behind the decline, the firm believes. IHS expects shipments of e-readers to fall from 23.2 million last year to 14.1 million this year. The rapid rise and now rapid decline of e-readers is unusual even for the volatile consumer electronics industry, says IHS analyst Jordan Selburn, but it's indicative of the broader trend of single-purpose devices like e-readers and cameras losing out to general-purpose ones like tablets and smartphones. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Social media.

Facebook attempts to make privacy controls more user-friendly

Facebook is trying to make its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an effort to turn the world's largest social network into a more discreet place.

The fine-tuning announced Wednesday will include several revisions that will start rolling out to Facebook Inc.'s more than one billion users in the next few weeks.

The biggest change will be a new "privacy shortcuts" section that will appear as a tiny lock on the right-hand side at the top of people's news feeds. This feature offers a drop-down box where users will be able to get answers to common questions such as, "Who can see my stuff?"

Other updates will include a tool that will enable individuals to review all the publicly available pictures identifying them on Facebook. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Safety concerns

Honda recalls 870,000 vehicles

Honda is recalling about 870,000 minivans and SUVs worldwide because they can roll away even though drivers have removed the keys from the ignition.

Honda Canada says the recall will involve approximately 23,300 Honda Odyssey and 12,400 Honda Pilot vehicles from the 2003-2004 model years and about 16,600 Acura MDX vehicles from the 2003-2006 model years in Canada.

"Honda Canada has received several complaints about such failures in these vehicles but has received no reports of accidents or injuries related to this issue," the company said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air travel

Cocktails put the fun back in flying

U.S. airlines have found a way to take the edge off the stress of flying and make a few extra bucks along the way: fancy new cocktails, craft beers and elegant wines.

Virgin America offers Grandma's Coffee, an iced cappuccino with Jack Daniels whiskey for US$9.

US Airways has partnered with mixer company Stirrings to sell mojitos and cosmos for $8 each.

Delta offers the Sky Breeze, which is vodka, Fresca and a splash of cranberry-apple juice over ice, for $7. It also sells small-batch bourbon from Woodford Reserve for $7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
101.55¢
(+0.15¢)

TSX 12,353.09 (+70.74)

OIL $86.77 US (+98¢)

GOLD $1,717.90 US (+$8.30)

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HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Friends, Romulans, countrymen! Lend me your pointy ears. I come not to bury Star Trek (frankly, Voyager did that), but to praise it.

Star Trek: The Next Generation is on Netflix now, and I'm completely engaged. To my surprise and delight, many of my Facebook friends have independently made it their priority No. 1, and it's resulted in the sort of long, passionate comment threads usually only seen under shared photos of ultrasounds and/or Stephen Harper.

I've complained in this space before that too much modern pop culture is just the repackaging of ideas we've seen before. But I can't deny the movies I've been anticipating most lately: Bobcaygeon The Movie (documentary based on a rock ballad), Les Miserables (movie adaptation of a musical adaptation of a French musical adaptation of a novel), and Star Trek Into Darkness (sequel of a reboot of a movie version of a TV series).

TNG regeneration

Going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

I can get all snobby at Men in Black 3, but if it's John's Crap: The Sequel, then my objections mysteriously disappear. In truth, if they made a movie of The Wire, I'd probably show up in costume (rumpled suit with vomit stains).

So I apologize for my earlier complaints. Star Trek: Regurgitation is just fine by me.

I was the perfect age for the original run of TNG — 11 years old when it debuted as a juvenile imitation of the original series, and 17 when it was over, by then a Hugo Award-winning masterpiece beloved by virgins worldwide. So going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

In a world where people no longer meet in town halls and churches, some of us get our sense of community by discussing the legends of Vulcans or Orcs or hard-drinking ad execs. Whether that's a step forward or back I'll leave to you.

But what fun to get lost in the minutiae of a 24th century, where anything can happen except good roles for women. How wonderful to laugh at the stuff they got wrong (Picard's personal computer is amusingly thick) and got right (Picard and Riker discuss a European union). How satisfying to gauge a fellow Trekker's knowledge level by their recognition of "Make it so" (beginner), "THERE. ARE. FOUR. LIGHTS!" (intermediate), and "All Husnock — everywhere" (expert).

My excitement led me to decide that I'm going to watch every worthwhile Star Trek episode, which after several hours perusing reviews and ratings online I've determined is 30 episodes of the original, six episodes of the animated series, 54 episodes of TNG, 69 of DS9, 29 of Voyager and 25 of Enterprise. (I just hope the experience doesn't turn me into a nerd.)

It's good to boldly go where I've already been before.

Taking us out of here, again: The cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation.
2012 CBS STUDIOS INC HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Love is sweeter by the dozen

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12/12/12 SWAK

Last triple-date to wed your mate

Many couples kissed during a mass wedding ceremony at the Peak in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. At least 700 couples were expected to get married on the date 12/12/12, the last such triple-date in this year in Hong Kong as they believe the date will bring them everlasting love. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

When the clock strikes 12:12

Twelve-word vows say it all

KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose, left, signals that there are five more minutes before she starts the wedding between Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Allen, centre, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Johnson in federal court in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Ambrose started their wedding at 12:12 p.m. at the couple's request, where they exchanged 12-word vows on 12/12/12. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Chinese numerology

"One is considered a yang number, while two is considered a yin number. Combining the two can offer new couples balance."

Marketing firm Back Bar USA in a press release announcing its $1,212,120 Las Vegas wedding package that included the use of a private jet, watches and earrings for the wedding party, and dinner at a Michelin-rated restaurant.

Metropolitan Panel

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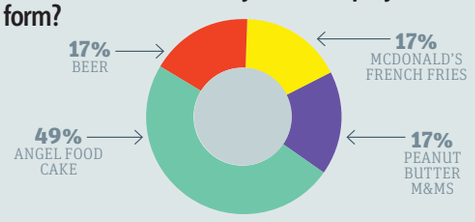
Pizza Hut is making a pizza-scented perfume. What other foods would you like in spray-on form?



Twitter

@dummy306:
Everyone's gotta take their turn at being the bad guy every once in a while.

@evaneufeld:
Cousin's kids are always sick. My mom's advice: 'they need to go lick some shopping carts or something'

@Skdevo67:
Does "Saskatoon Shines" refer to the glare ice at major intersections? #yxe #embarrassing

@smilingsandra:
What's green covered in tinsel & says ribbit? A mistle-toad!!

@DaBear67:
Lunch at #HudsonsCanadianTapHouse in #YXE. Its #UnCanadian not to try the #BobAndDougClub

@TheOtherHilary:
Hmm, your restaurant just opened and several people signed up for Urbanspoon solely to review it. Seems legit.

metro
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Soaps find laughter at the end of the world

Improv. An important question to ask as the end of days approaches: What would Snooki do?

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

After nearly 30 years of performances, Friday night's show at the Broadway Theatre may be the last for the Saskatoon Soaps.

Fear not local improv fans, the troupe isn't planning on hanging up their props any time soon, but their show is embracing the Mayan idea that the world will come to an end on Dec. 21 with The End of Times: A Holiday Spectacular!

"It's a holiday show, but it's also about the destruction of the human race as well," said Andrew McDonald, who has been a member of the troupe for 13 years.

The troupe's established characters, like the Jersey Shore-inspired Booki, portrayed by Courtney Lato, will be preparing for end times in their own unique ways.

"It will be a good chance for the audience to see how these characters deal with the end of the world and will they try and survive? Are they living in denial?" said Lato, who is in her third season with the Soaps.

Of course, in an improv setting, exactly what that coping process will look like isn't up to the cast.

"It's the audience that gives us what that scene is about and possibly what happens eventually. All we know is that these two characters are going to start the scene, it could end up with 10 characters in the scene," McDonald said.

While the idea of heading out on stage without a script, at the mercy of your audience, might make some actors long for the apocalypse, these performers thrive on the challenge.

"I think that nerves help. It helps to keep you sharp. There have been a couple of shows where I've been more relaxed and those haven't been my strongest because I didn't have my edge or alertness," said McDonald.

"It's something that I absolutely have to do. If I go a long time without performing, I go squirrelly. You develop the need to make an audience laugh and there's nothing else like it."

For Lato, this type of performance is also a necessity, but in a different way. She has an eight-month-old daughter and admits to frequent cases of "mommy brain."

"The way my memory has worked the last few months, it's probably good I don't have a script to learn," Lato said.

The Saskatoon Soaps perform Friday at the Broadway Theatre at 9:30 p.m. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre's Tree of Plenty campaign.

Non-perishable items will also be collected.

Courtney Lato and her cast mates in the Saskatoon Soaps perform Friday night at the Broadway Theatre.
JARED BERRY/SUPPLIED

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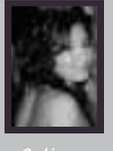

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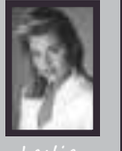

Leslie

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Do you hear what we hear?

Weighing up this year's festive albums. As usual, the latest holiday releases are a mixed bag, but Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Sufjan Stevens' version of Christmas is an alternative one. ALL IMAGES HANDOUT

A Different Kind of Christmas – Various artists

Naughty: You're probably not familiar with many of the artists on these 23 tracks. Audio Stepchild? Renzo Charlez? Fresh-wadda Brooks? Have all of these great hip-hop artists been hiding on the North Pole until now?

Nice: This compilation comes courtesy of Hoopla World-wide/LRT/INgrooves Fontana ... all imprints we had also never heard of before now. But some of the participants have affiliations with Parliament Funkadelic and Nappy Roots. The beats here mostly have a G-Funk feel with little samples of carols thrown in and the rhymes are super positive. Check out 1st Blood and Buffalo Stille's Some Kentucky Bourbon on Christmas Eve and Da Product and J Bill's It Seems Like We Forgot for some of the most festive holiday hip-hop since Run DMC's Christmas in Hollis.

Silver & Gold: Songs for Christmas, Vols. 6-10 – Sufjan Stevens

Naughty: Is Sufjan Stevens trying to take up all our free time this season? Sure, this is a gorgeous collection of 58 holiday-ish tracks (we say "ish" because how is Prince's Alphabet Street a holiday song?). But keep in mind that Stevens recorded these songs over six years. Listeners may want to pace themselves too.

Nice: There are a few songs on here that are the sonic equivalent of sugar plums dancing in your head. Draw the curtains, plug in your tree and zone out to the beautifully textured 10-minute plus opuses Christmas Unicorn and The Child with the Star on His Head.

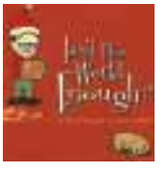
Cheers, It's Christmas – Blake Shelton

Naughty: His role as a coach on The Voice has earned Blake Shelton a new base of fans who wouldn't ordinarily like his brand of country music. That said, if you don't ordinarily like his brand of country music, you won't like this album.

Nice: Shelton is such a likable personality that this is highly tolerable stuff. Plus, he handpicked some of the most likable side-kicks to guide his sleigh, like Reba, Kelly Clarkson, his wife Miranda Lambert and the king of palatable Christmas charisma, Michael Bublé, who co-wrote one of the songs here. Basically, the cover pic of Shelton in front of the fireplace says it all: It's old-fashioned, steeped in tradition, comfortable and not exactly cool.

Isn't This World Enough? – Various Artists

Naughty: The problem with this post-record industry climate is that there aren't enough Scroogey label CEOs to say, "Yer holiday song stinks!" Therefore, this 14-song comp from the Nettwerk Music Group has a few stinkers from Ash Koley and Jay Brannan. Bah humbug!



Nice: The title track, by the Scottish six-piece Admiral Fallow, might not be the most obvious holiday song (sample lyric: "You don't need to hang your hat on belief in bumper stickers") but there's something classic about it that makes it malleable, the way that Put a Little Love In Your Heart kind of became a holiday staple after it was used in Scrooged. Also worth noting: This compilation kicks off with a rockin' Fun. tune!

The Grinch says ...

- **This Christmas – John Travolta and Olivia Newton John**

If this collection came out in 1980 then maybe there would be a reason for it to exist, but in 2012 there's no need for these 13 tracks. The forced smiles while sipping cocoa on the cover shows that their old chemistry is now gone. We don't like to be Grinchy, but this is the sonic equivalent of reindeer poop.

Holidays Rule – Various Artists

Naughty: Speaking of compilations that start with a song by Fun., the We Are Young trio have spread themselves too thin for the holidays. With their track, they take a Sleigh Ride down Broadway and make an ill-advised turn into '80s territory. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten also deserve a lump of coal for their empty version of Baby, It's Cold Outside.

Nice: This one delivers the most bang for your buck. The Shins run McCartney's Wonderful Christmastime through a Beach Boys filter and turn it into something great. McCartney himself is on here too. Other great performances include Calexico, Eleanor Friedberger and Andrew Bird.

Merry Christmas, Baby – Rod Stewart

Naughty: Stewart exhumes the voice of Ella Fitzgerald for a duet of What Are You Do-ing New Year's Eve? Let's just hope there is no "live" performance, a la Virtual 2Pac.

Nice: Rod's light rock swing is actually contagious, and you may find yourself saying, "Hey, play that again!" about the original song that Stewart co-wrote, Red-Suited Super Man. Then you'll realize what you just said and lie that you were just kidding. Cee-Lo, Mary J. Blige, Bublé and Trombone Shorty also turn in notable cameos.

Sounds of the Holidays Vol. One – The Polyphonic Spree

Naughty: The Polyphonic Spree are known for featuring upward of 20 members, but leader Tim DeLaughter doesn't quite maximize the potential of all of his choral worker elves here.

Nice: Though many of these 13 tracks are familiar songs, the Spree drastically reimagine many of them to great effect. Silver Bells, featuring School of the Seven Bells, is a dreamy seven-minute symphony that captures the exhausting wonder of the season through the sleepy eyes of a child.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Lindsay Lohan will not go wandering with Max and The Wanted

Lindsay Lohan has put an end to her gallivanting with on-the-road British boy band The Wanted, cancelling plans to follow the group to London and then Dubai, according to E! News.

Some suspected the change of plans was caused by Lohan's legal troubles, but the starlet is allowed to leave the country while on probation. Perhaps it's because her recent infatuation with Wanted member Max George reportedly isn't all that serious. "All they're doing is hanging out," a source says.

Nothing serious

"All they're doing is hanging out."

A source
On what's going on between Lohan and Wanted member Max George.

Megan Fox

Fox loves son but not so fond of giving birth

First-time mom Megan Fox is thrilled to have son Noah in her life, but bringing him into the world wasn't exactly her favourite experience, she admits to Access Hollywood.

"I was screaming for an epidural when Brian was driving me to the hospital because my water broke on its own," she says. "It was level orange alert pain." Despite the pain, though, Fox was still concerned about her appearance. "I had wet hair so I was trying to blow dry my hair before I went to the hospital," she says. "I didn't want to go to the hospital with wet hair."

The Word

The year in celebrity divorces

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Yesterday we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012. (Aw, love!) So today we'll gaze at the years big celebrity divorces. (Boo, dead love!)

Katy Perry and Russell Brand
Announcement: Dec. 30 (so technically this occurred in 2011 but the fallout was in 2012. Work with me here, folks).
Length of marriage: 14 months
Reason: "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand said of Perry and her career in an interview with Howard Stern in July. "(The reality is) you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children." Translation: The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.
Contention level: Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with the comedian. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau John Mayer.

Heidi Klum and Seal
Announcement: Jan. 23
Length of marriage: 7 years
Reason: Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."
Contention level: High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated $70 million fortune.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise
Announcement: June 29
Length of marriage: 5 years
Reason: Cruise was reportedly blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly claims that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.
Contention level: Medium. The divorce was fast and furious (by comparison, Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are still in negotiations). Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett
Announcement: Sept. 6
Length of marriage: 9 years
Reason: Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.
Contention level: Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.

Joe Simpson and Tina Simpson
Announcement: They filed on Sept. 24; TMZ broke the news on Oct. 24
Length of marriage: 34 years
Reason: Well, the divorce papers state: "The marriage has become insupportable because of discord or conflict of personalities." But the National Enquirer says it's because Joe, a 54-year-old former youth minister, is gay — and even has a boyfriend. Whoa.
Contention level: Awkward. If you were Tina Simpson, wouldn't you feel funny inside?

The Spice Girls

New musical slammed for lacking Spice

Reviews are coming in for Viva Forever, the musical based on the hits of the Spice Girls — and it isn't pretty. The Daily Mail's Quentin Letts dismisses the show as "a prize Christmas Turkey," while the Telegraph's Charles Spencer rants, "This is a fatuous show with nothing fresh to say about popular culture and our fixation with fame." The harshest scorn came from the Daily Mirror, though, with the condemnation, "There is more female empowerment at a Taliban finishing school." The musical was written by Absolutely Fabulous star Jennifer Saunders. While all five original Spice Girls were on hand for the musical's London premiere earlier this week, they do not appear in the show itself.

Florence Welch

Florence the peacemaker

Florence + the Machine singer Florence Welch turned peacemaker at a recent concert in Scotland, halting the show when she spotted two fans quarreling in the front row, according to Us Weekly. "I can't have a fight in front of me while I'm singing this song! No fighting allowed," she said. "I don't know what's happening but I'd like it to stop. It doesn't matter whose fault it is." Others in the crowd weren't pleased with the interruption and had begun chuckling nervously, causing Welch to chide them as well: "Excuse me, all of you. Stop it," she said. "I'm sorry all of you if you're upset." Welch then hopped off stage and hugged one of the fighting girls who appeared to be crying, insisting that "everyone who's friends, kiss and make up and be good to each other."

Twitter

@KChenoweth
No one will see Paranormal Activity 4 with me.

@RealMichelleT
What would the Dowager Countess do?

@msleamichele
Another great day of work at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow! Xoxo

@rustyrockets
"@JonahHill: Ok so I've decided I'm going to get married soon, I'm just not sure to who yet" I'm free.

Bask in Rita's aura

Jay-Z's protege spills about her two-tone lip, her knack for nurturing her locks and her long-standing love for Lopez

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

No one rocks a strong brow and bold lip quite like Rita Ora does. And so we felt compelled to pick her brain about her trademark look. In the process, Jay-Z's protege gave us a few tips on how to rock a two-tone red pout and the celebrity (it's J.Lo!) whose complexion she covets the most.

On her morning routine...
"In the day, it takes about 10 to 15 minutes (to put my makeup on). If I don't have to wear makeup, I don't. I don't mind being caught on camera bare-faced. And I think having healthy, glowing skin is really important. On off days, I'll wear bronzer and a lipstick, but that's it. A red lip and black liquid eyeliner would be my easiest look. It looks good on blondes — but this is all bleached! "

...and fancy, get-dressed-up, evening ritual
"If I have an event, I might stick some lashes on and maybe put on some golden, bronzy eye shadow, something to make my eyes stand out a bit more. But in the evening, it takes me probably about 25 minutes to do my makeup — if I'm doing it properly. Do you know what I'm doing right now? The other day, I wore a dress that had pink and red, so I made my top lip pink and my bottom lip red. That was quite cool. We invented that with my makeup artist. Or you can do bright red on the outside and dark red on the inside and blend it all together. The main thing is making your skin look flawless, like you have no makeup on."

She's not a natural blonde, but a natural beauty? No question. HANDOUT

Face the facts

"J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath?"
Rita Ora

Her skin care before bed
"I wash my face every night and use Crème de la Mer moisturizing soft cream as it makes my skin feel nice. But my skin isn't too bad actually."

The hair: to spray or not to spray
"(My hair) takes a lot of work. I used to have really long hair, but when I started dying it and using curling irons and stuff, it dried it out. I'd literally have a hair spray in my bag, which isn't good. Now I use clip-ins so that I don't damage my own hair. I also do a lot of treatments — a lot of oils and masks. But your hair will only absorb so much oil. You also have to eat good. So I eat things like fish for the oils."

Lipstick or lip gloss?
"I love a strong lip. I would see women like Marilyn Monroe and Gwen Stefani with red lips and they never looked like they gave a s—t about what anyone had to say about them. They had such confidence. They were just hot and sexy and not afraid to be different. When I put red lipstick on, I want to be like them."

About that tan
(I feel the most beautiful) when I've got a tan!

Her beauty icons
"Kim Kardashian has good makeup. But J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath? My mum's really good with makeup. She always has a different look. She used to say, 'Don't do a lip and an eye. Pick one.' I follow her advice ... sometimes."

A peek inside Rita's makeup bag

Tom Ford
Cherry Lush Lip Color
"It's not just an evening look, I wear it in the day with sunglasses. It spices up your face. You can have no other makeup on and just a red lipstick and look like you've made the biggest effort."
$48, tomford.com

Dior
Diorshow Waterproof Backstage Mascara
"It's really dark and makes my eyelashes strong."
$25, dior.com

Elizabeth Arden
Eight Hour Cream Skin Protectant
"I use this for everything — for my face, on my lips as a gloss. And, sometimes, when I want a wet look, I put it on my eyelids."
$20, elizabetharden.com

MAC
Black Waterproof Liquid Eyeliner
"This stays on all day, it doesn't come off."
$19, maccosmsetics.com

Chanel
Vitalumière Aqua fresh and Hydrating Cream Compact Makeup SPF 15
"This covers things up quickly. It's got a little mirror which makes it easy to use." $58, chanel.com

Bobbi Brown
Shimmer Brick Compact in Bronze
"I love the different layers. It goes from light to dark, so you can use it as an eye shadow, blusher, highlighter and bronzer. It's like four in one."
$44, bobbibrowncosmetics.com

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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@Jeanne_Beker: Prepping for launch of TheLoop.ca this Thursday! With @Killer_Kurves @BigHipsRedLips @FlawsofCouture

@Jeanne_Beker: My mom sure does love her chocolate... Ready to start a sweet 93rd year!

@Jeanne_Beker: YUMMY!! In the #CTV lobby with model hunks Oren @choosethefro +@JosephCannata @TheMarilynShow

@Jeanne_Beker: With the cool+sexy @jianghomeshi @ArleneDickinson Xmas bash!

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Sam Rich

Student and stylist at Reginald magazine

Age: 21

What she's wearing
Kelly Wearstler coat, House of Harlow sunglasses, Chanel bag, vintage Chanel boots, J Brand jeans, Autumn cashmere sweater.

Her inspiration
"I take inspiration from blogs like Atlantic Pacific and Man Repeller, from my friends, and my mom is my ultimate fashion inspiration."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

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Christmas card clutter solutions

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

If you are the popular type then you probably get lots of Christmas cards sent to you each holiday season.

One of the most asked questions I get during the holidays is what to do with the cards and how to creatively display them.

I remember as a kid my Mom would string them up across our window in the living room. She'd poke them into the edges of painting and mirror frames; basically ridding them of tabletops in order to make room for trays of hard candy and nuts.

I've seen cards lined up on mantels, window ledges and credenzas, stuck to the fridge door and draped on a ribbon around door frames.

For a family home that might look charmingly chaotic, it's important to create order with decor, and greeting cards are no exception.

As a designer type, I am always conscious of displaying things around my home that add to my decor — especially during the holidays. Here's a few ways that inspire me to proudly put those warm wishes on display.

Jolly Reindeer Photo Holder

At almost three-feet tall, I'd stand this hand-painted fellow in my front foyer as a greeter to guests when they arrive. $40, pier1.ca.

Card Keeper

Got keepsake cards? Store them away neatly (it's also a good way to remember who sent you cards from year to year). $12, crateandbarrel.com.

Holiday Card Holder

Organize 60 cards horizontally on a hallway wall or vertically beside the Christmas tree. $65, potterybarn.com.

Idea: lay your holiday greeting cards in a decorative tray and display on a coffee table. Allow guests to sift through them as desired.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Greeting Card Etiquette

- Display your cards into common groups: work related, family and friends.
- At the end of the season, gather all cards and store them with holiday decorations for next year. You'll then have an auto-list of people to send cards to.
- Up-cycle last year's extra-beautiful cards and use the front plackets as instant name tags for gifts. Just make sure there is no writing on the inside front.
- If someone sends you a card and its too late in the season to return one to them, send them a "thank you for thinking of me card" in the new year.
- Always include your return address on the envelope and sign the card with your first and last name. This ensures the receiver knows who it came from.

Baby shrimp and crab meat make a delicious duo in delicate fried cakes

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

I love the traditional fried crab cakes served in restaurants, but are they ever high in calories and fat! Here I've used a combination of baby shrimp and crabmeat and sautéed them in a very small amount of oil. The low-fat mayonnaise sauce goes beautifully with these delicate cakes.

They end up at 99 calories and 5.8 grams of fat per serving.

Ingredients

Cakes
- 6 oz chopped crabmeat (or surimi)
- 4 oz baby shrimp (cooked)
- 3 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup dried unseasoned bread crumbs
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1/2 tsp crushed fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp vegetable oil

Sauce
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp low-sodium soy sauce

Garnish
- 1/4 cup finely diced red bell pepper

1. To make the cakes, combine the crabmeat, shrimp, mayonnaise, lemon juice, green onion, cilantro, bread crumbs, egg, garlic, ginger and mustard in a food processor. Finely chop until the mixture just comes together. Don't purée. Alternatively, chop by hand.

2. Form into 6 cakes.

3. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Add the vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Sauté the cakes for about 5 minutes per side, or just until browned and hot.

4. To make the sauce, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sesame oil and soy sauce in a serving bowl. Whisk until smooth.

5. Garnish the cakes with the diced red pepper and serve the sauce alongside. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Asian Crab and Shrimp Cakes

This recipe serves six. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Cookbook of the Week

Seafood made easy

Love seafood but don't have the time to get creative with cooking it? Enter 200 Best Canned Fish & Seafood Recipes by Susan Sampson.

The book is full of traditional and updated recipes, new creations and canned twists on classic fish dishes. The recipes feature canned seafood that can be found in virtually any supermarket across Canada: tuna, crab, salmon, mackerel, cod, sardines, clams, oysters, mussels and more.

Master dishes such as Salad Nicoise, Fish Tacos, Lemon Pepper-Shrimp Pasta, Lobster Mushroom Bisque, Crab Cakes, Tuna and Spinach Risotto and more. **METRO**

Grapefruit Coriander Mussels. Add a punch of citrus to this appetizer

1. In large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Cook onion, garlic, half of the coriander and cumin for about 3 minutes or until softened. Add juice, red pepper and jalapeno; bring to the boil.

2. Stir in mussels. Cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until mussels are open.

3. Sprinkle with remaining coriander before serving.

NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

2 portions
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped fresh coriander
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
- 1 cup (250 ml) Florida grapefruit juice
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 1 bag (about 2 lbs/1 kg) fresh mussels, rinsed

Taste the rainbow — trout that is

1. Trout: Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Arrange trout on a lightly greased, foil-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper. Blend oil with mustard, vinegar and thyme; brush evenly over the trout. Roast for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

2. Relish: Meanwhile, heat oil in a large, non-stick skillet set over medium-high heat. Add onion, mushrooms, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes or until browned. Stir in roasted red pepper, vinegar and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until glossy.

3. Spoon mushroom relish over trout. Garnish with parsley (if using) and serve with lemon wedges. **NEWS CANADA/ ARTHRITIS.CA**

This recipe serves six. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

Trout
- 2 lbs (1 kg) boneless rainbow trout, about 2 large fillets
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each olive oil and Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp (10 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) dried thyme

Relish
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) sliced cremini or white mushrooms
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped roasted red pepper
- 1 tsp (5 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Chopped parsley (optional)
- Lemon wedges

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Once you have assigned your kids with a cake challenge and set the timer, you will have one free hour to yourself. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The Cake Boss challenge

The new boss. Next time your kids are bored, give them some Play-Doh and a cake challenge

SHARON DEVELLIS
YummyMummyClub.ca

Tony Danza used to be "the boss." Or there's Bruce Springsteen.

Nowadays, there's a new boss in town. It's Buddy Valastro, the uber-talented cake creator/decorator/owner of Carlo's Bakery, and thanks to a little network called TLC, he is known to the world as the Cake Boss.

We don't watch a lot of television at our house but there are a few shows we watch together as a family: America's Funniest Videos, Antiques Roadshow, Wipe Out, and, of course, Cake Boss.

The boys are addicted and love watching Valastro create cakes that defy gravity (and sometimes don't). But they especially love the spin-off series — The Next Great Baker — where, for eight episodes, Valastro had a competition to find a new baker for Carlo's bakery. Each week Valastro threw new challenges at the 10 contestants as they vied for a chance to win $50,000 and work at the famous bakery.

This has spurred a new activity for my kids.

Cake Boss: The Play-Doh Edition

I wish I could take credit for this, but my husband came up with the idea when the kids brought out their mounds of Play-Doh after dinner one night. Essentially, one of us is "The Boss" and we tell both of our sons what kind of cake to make.

Example: We would like a cake that represents Lego. It needs to be layered and able to feed 20 to 30 people. You have one hour.

Then we set the timer and let the boys create. Bonus: My husband and I have one hour to do other things while they are at the table stretching their Play-Doh and imaginations. Once I was able to dye my hair while they made Valentine's Day-inspired cakes. And just the other day I managed to vacuum the entire house, including under the couches. Which, ironically, is where I found half of their missing Lego pieces. I wonder how many pieces our central vacuum system can suck up before it actually explodes.

So the next time your kids are bored and need something to do, grab some Play-Doh and go show them who is really the boss.

YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP BUSY WOMEN SURVIVE MOTHERHOOD.

A film fest for the holidays

EILEEN FISHER
YummyMummyClub.ca

With cold wintry days and Christmas craziness calling out for people to stop and take a break, watching a favourite holiday movie is something that every kid loves to do.

My kids are no different, and there are certain holiday movies that are pretty much guaranteed to make them stop, drop, and sit for a bit. With all of the hustle and bustle at this time of year, relaxing is something we sometimes forget to do.

Here are some of my family's favourite Christmas movies and the reason why we always have a supply of movie snacks on hand in our kitchen during the whole month of December.

Elf

Over the past few years, this movie has quickly beat out all of the others as our family's favourite one to watch at Christmas.

It's got a funny innocent charm about it that just makes you smile the minute you see Will Ferrell. The humour in the film appeals to all ages, and it has an awesome message. And, no, the message is not, "We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: Candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup." Quotes by Buddy are standard around this house in December.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

This movie is the inspiration behind everything to do with Christmas lights and family gatherings.

It's also the reason why I refer to my husband solely as "Clark" for the whole month of December. If it's Christmas Eve and the rooms of your house are filled with family members who are eating all of your food, trashing your kitchen and setting your tree on fire, you have just become a Griswold.

There's no sense fighting it — embrace it.

A Christmas Story

"You'll shoot your eye out!" Can you believe this movie was made almost 30 years ago? The kids love this movie because of how it portrays Ralphie using his "inside voice" to talk about what he really thinks of all the unreasonable aspects of Christmas. Like wearing a pink bunny suit or having your dad obsess over a lamp shaped like a lady's leg. I wonder if Ralphie eventually ended up in therapy?

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Take a break with the family and watch a movie. GOODSHOOT/THINKSTOCK

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4 SPORTS

Three famous omissions

1 Sidney Crosby

The Penguins superstar is arguably one of the best hockey players in the world. Few will forget his gold-medal goal for Canada at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. But Sid the Kid was left off the 2006 roster as the Wayne Gretzky-run squad decided to go with a veteran team.

2 Michael Jordan

Long before Air Jordan was great, he was cut from his high school team in the 1978-79 season. As a five-foot-11 sophomore, he was considered too short. He made the junior team and never looked back, starring at North Carolina before lifting the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles as a pro.

3 Kurt Warner

Few gave this former grocery-store stockboy much of a chance in the pros. But despite being undrafted and spending four years trying to make the NFL, Warner went on to become one of the league's most prolific passers, winning an MVP and Super Bowl crown in 2001 with the St. Louis Rams. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Cut deep: Roster trim looms at junior camp

World juniors. Top teenagers running out of time to make impressions with final selections expected Thursday evening

Canadian goalies Laurent Brossoit and Jake Paterson, a London Knight, chat following an exhibition game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears on Wednesday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There will be tears. There will be anger. There will be disappointment.

It won't be easy, but Team Canada coach Steve Spott will whittle his junior roster to 23 players. The final cuts — players who have always been the best on their teams — are expected Thursday night.

Don Hay, coach of the Vancouver Giants and a two-time Team Canada world junior coach, doesn't envy Spott's position.

"You see tears. You see disappointment. You see anger. You see all the things that go with human emotions," said Hay, who coached the entry last year and in 1995. "You obviously feel for that young man, going through all those different feelings and then (having to) face the media. He's got to compose himself fairly quickly before he goes out and speaks.

"It's a tough 10 or 15 minutes for everybody involved."

For those who remain, there's a team photo Friday, then a flight Saturday to Finland for exhibition games prior to the puck dropping on Boxing Day for the world junior hockey championship in Russia.

Those who don't make the roster will be whisked off to the airport for flights back to their respective teams. Few of the hopefuls have ever been cut by any team before.

Defenceman Mathew Dumba missed out last year.

"It sucked," he said. "It's a terrible experience. I got cut and I didn't fulfil my dream."

Spott is putting his own mark on how things are done. For one thing, the cuts are coming in the evening, not the morning. For years, the deed was done via 6 a.m. phone calls.

"It's not the most enjoyable thing in the world," said defenceman Jesse Blacker, now with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, who was cut from the 2011 team. "You can't really sleep. They called me at 6 o'clock to let me know that I had been cut, that I wasn't making the team. It's disappointing."

Blacker doesn't think the timing will leave players any less nervous, though.

"They're still going to be nervous in camp throughout the day," said Blacker. "The main goal is to play throughout the day without the nerves. Go out and show them what you've got, do what you can do. Don't leave yourself doubting that you gave it all you could." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Quoted

"I got away from my game last time. I was trying to prove to everyone how my defensive game had evolved.... I got away from my offensive side, which is why I got invited."

Kitchener Rangers defenceman Ryan Murphy, who has twice been cut at world junior camp.

First round of cuts

The Canadian junior men's hockey team released five players from its selection camp Wednesday.

- Defencemen Adam Pelech and Derrick Pouliot and forwards Francis Beauvillier, Sean Monahan and Tyler Graovac were cut, dropping the number of players competing for 23 spots on the team to 32.
- Four goalies, 10 defencemen and 18 forwards remain. Nine more hopefuls are expected to be released Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Latest lockout meeting sees no progress

The latest round of NHL labour talks ended with the two sides not even getting into the same room with each other.

The players' association and league negotiators met separately Wednesday with federal mediators in suburban New Jersey, holding discussions that didn't immediately appear to have moved the sides any closer to a deal to save the hockey season.

There was hope going into Wednesday that negotiations could get back on track to the point they were last Thursday before talks fell apart.

When the NHL agreed last week to increase its make-whole offer of deferred payments from $211 million US to $300 million, it was part of a proposed package that required the union to agree on three non-negotiable points. Instead, the players' association accepted the raise in funds, but then made counter-proposals on the issues the league stated had no wiggle room.

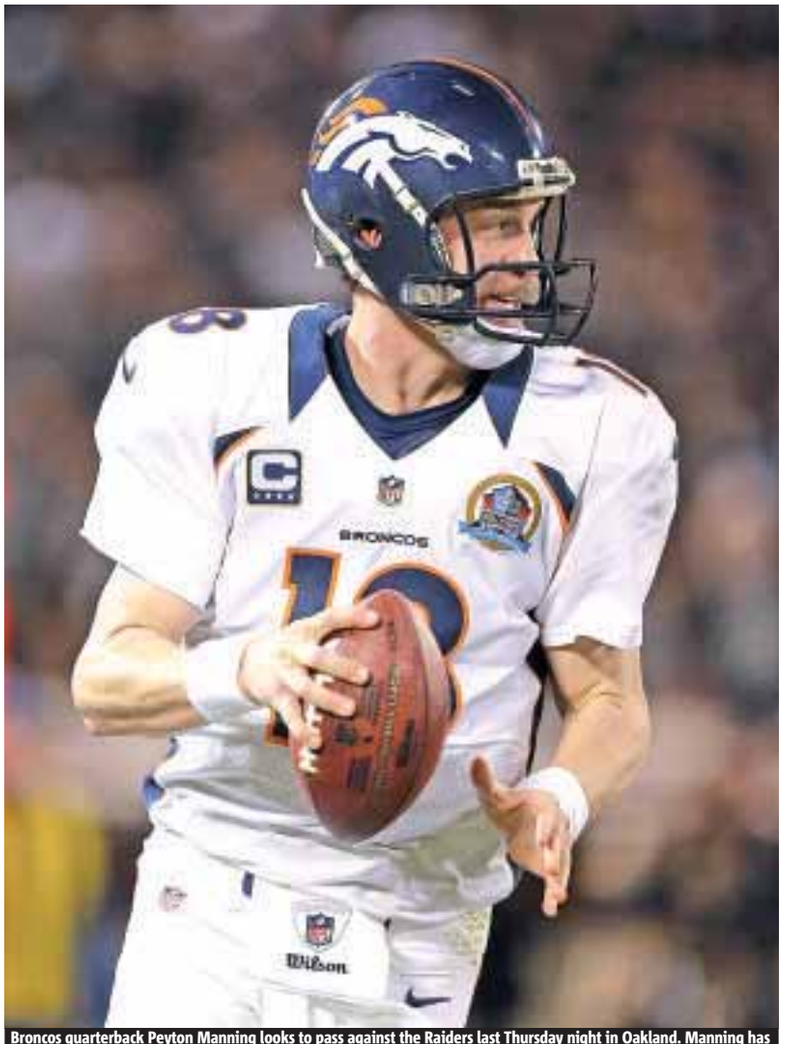
NHL commissioner Gary Bettman then said that the offer was being pulled from the table. However, mediators informed the union on Wednesday that the proposal was still available, but it carried a take-it-or-leave-it ultimatum. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Quoted

"I thought the gap would be closed much quicker, but it hasn't come to fruition yet, so we have to keep working."

Brendan Morrison, one of 13 players to attend the latest talks on Wednesday.

Commissioner Gary Bettman heads uptown to address the media following the NHL board of governors meeting last week in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning looks to pass against the Raiders last Thursday night in Oakland. Manning has a 6-0 record against the Ravens dating back to 2002 going into Sunday's game in Baltimore. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Ravens present true evaluation for streaking Broncos

NFL. Winners of eight straight, Manning and his Denver cohorts travel to hostile Baltimore

Though nobody would discount an eight-game winning streak in the NFL, there's a not-so-little secret about the one Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos are currently enjoying.

Quite simply, they haven't played anyone all that good since the streak started back in October.

Nobody the Broncos have beaten over their longest winning streak since the 1998 Super Bowl season would be in the playoffs if they started today. Only one — Cincinnati at 7-6 — currently has a winning record.

All of which adds yet another layer of intrigue to this week's game at Baltimore.

"This is the type of team that we will have to play in the playoffs," linebacker Von Miller said. "This is the type of team that has been very successful in the past.... And this is the type of team that we have to play to gauge ourselves and see what type of team we are."

Not only will the game against the Ravens (9-4) go a long way toward determining where the Broncos (10-3), currently seeded third, land in the hunt for a first-round bye in the playoffs, it will give them a true litmus test on a number of issues. Among them:

How well do they stack up against one of the league's best teams with what is traditionally one of its best defences that could be getting linebacker Ray Lewis back in the lineup this week?

How well can they play outdoors, on the road in inclement weather, which is where the playoffs could conceivably take them? (Sunday's forecast calls for a 50 per cent chance of rain.)

"You have to play the best teams at the end," cornerback Chris Harris said. "So it's good to play the best teams early, so by the time you get to the playoffs, you've had a good test."

That "good test," some might say, has been lacking during this eight-game winning streak, which has, to Denver's credit, included road wins against San Diego, Cincinnati, Carolina, Kansas City and Oakland. Also during that time, the Broncos have captured the AFC West. They've outscored teams by an average of 30-18. Manning has thrown for 2,313 yards and 19 scores over the eight games.

Through it all, the Broncos have stuck to the mantra that they take them one at a time with the goal of playing their best come December.

"Every week's a new experience," coach John Fox said. "Like always, it's who executes the best."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peyton's impressive past

Much is being made this week of Peyton Manning's 6-0 record vs. the Ravens since 2002 compared to Denver's 0-4 lifetime record in games at Baltimore since the Ravens arrived.

- Manning, not surprisingly, wants very little to do with trying to explain either trend.
- "I can't speak to the past," he said. "All I know is we're going on the road, playing an excellent team."

Former Bills RB Lynch to face old team in Toronto

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch gets to face his old team the Buffalo Bills at Rogers Centre on Sunday. OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Marshawn Lynch won't have to prepare for a frosty reception Sunday in his Buffalo Bills homecoming.

The veteran running back will face Buffalo for the first time since being dealt to the Seattle Seahawks in 2010. But the Bills' 2007 first-round pick will do so in the relative comfort of Rogers Centre and not the cold, rainy conditions that are forecast for Western New York.

"We won't miss that day at (Ralph Wilson Stadium)," Seattle head coach Pete Carroll said with a chuckle during a conference call Wednesday. "We'll be just fine."

Buffalo dealt Lynch to Seattle in October 2010 following two off-field incidents. But Lynch is apt to receive more cheers than jeers when introduced at Rogers Centre on Sunday.

Since 2008, Bills players have complained while Buffalo is the home team at Rogers Centre, the atmosphere in the domed facility doesn't come close to replicating the loud, ear-splitting support the team gets at Ralph Wilson Stadium. Toronto fans have often been as boisterous in their support of the visiting teams as they have for the Bills and playing indoors has removed two big challenges of playing in Orchard Park, N.Y., at this time of year — cold weather and swirling winds.

"The atmosphere is different and I think everybody knows that," Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "It's much different than the Ralph in terms of the noise and intensity and all that.

"But we're going to have more fans there than they will and we have to be able to take advantage of that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bills in Toronto

- The game is the last under the inaugural Bills Toronto Series agreement, which saw Rogers Communications Inc. pay the Buffalo club $78 million US to stage three exhibition and five regular-season games at Rogers Centre.
- The deal is expected to be extended through 2017.

UFC

MacDonald to get rematch with Condit in Montreal

Canadian welterweight Rory MacDonald is getting another shot at Carlos Condit.

UFC president Dana White confirmed by text to The Canadian Press on Wednesday that the rematch is slated for Montreal in March. The Bell Centre card is expected to be UFC 158.

But a main event between welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre and Nick Diaz is "not done yet," said White.

The UFC boss revealed last Thursday that the Montreal-based champ has asked to meet Diaz, calling it unfinished business.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rory MacDonald
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Funeral held for former Chiefs linebacker Belcher

Jovan Belcher was remembered Wednesday for the accomplishments of a life that ended so suddenly and violently.

Several hundred mourners gathered for the Kansas City Chiefs linebacker's funeral near his hometown on Long Island. The 25-year-old Belcher shot and killed his girlfriend on Dec. 1, then drove to the Chiefs practice facility and committed suicide in front of team officials.

Pastor Dawn Mixon shared that Belcher's mother, Cheryl Shepherd, described him as a "humble, kind young man."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

"It was a great season but I'm working to continue to grow and develop as a player."

Milos Raonic, who won Tennis Canada's male player of the year award for the second straight year. He ended the season No. 13 in the ATP rankings.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Focus on what you are good at and forget the rest. If you play to your strengths, you will soon be on the road to fame and fortune. Stop listening to what everyone else is saying and do only what motivates you.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Chances are you will have a flash of insight today that reveals how you can earn big money in the not too distant future. Don't forget though that the future depends a lot on what you do right now, so get busy.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Today's new moon is sure to bring changes in one or more important relationships. Whether they are the kind of changes you enjoy remains to be seen but they are certainly changes that are needed, so don't fight them.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The more you do now, while you are in the mood to work, the less you will have to do later when you are not. Just remember that you don't have to do something simply because everyone else is doing it.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A new moon in the most creative area of your chart gives you the kind of confidence you need to move mountains. Both in your personal life and at work you are capable of great things, so don't sell your talents short.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Sometimes it is smart to let your rivals win and this could be one of those occasions. If it gives them the impression that you are losing your grip, it will make it easier for you to win the battles that count!

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you meet today could become more than just a friend, so get up and get out into the world. If a stranger catches your eye, follow it up with a smile and a chat. One thing leads to another.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You need to come to a decision today about a money matter and the planets will make it easy for you. There is really only one option on the table that is worth pursuing, so commit to it and make it pay.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A new moon in your birth sign means you will find it easy to get your way over the next 24 hours. Does that fill your head with all sorts of outrageous ideas? It should! There are no limits (for you).

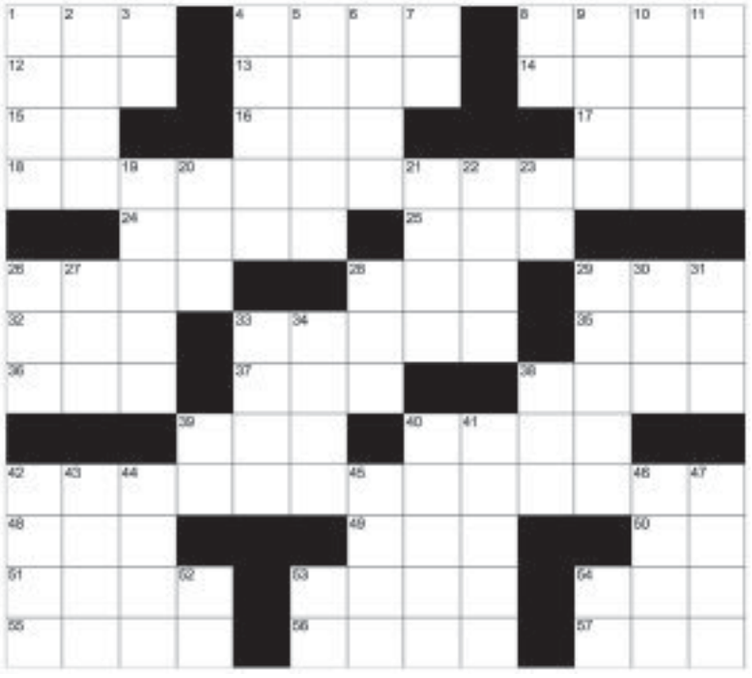
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
How and why did you allow yourself to get worked up about something so trivial? Whatever the reason, you must now stand back from the situation and see it for what it is: a minor inconvenience, nothing more.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will need to choose between one group of friends and another today. Your time is limited and you can only do justice to one set of commitments, so choose wisely. You can make it up to your other friends later.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't get so carried away with your plans and big ideas that you overlook the little things on which they depend. Remember: genius is 10 per cent inspiration and 90 per cent perspiration – yes, even for a Pisces. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

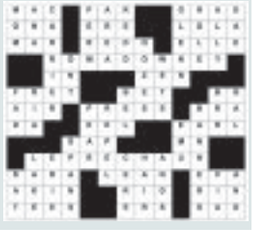
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Nightmare street
4. Ruse
8. Asian nurse
12. Cocoon
13. Comic/actress Tomlin
14. Ward of Once and Again
15. Musical group: — Vogue
16. American Music Awards (abbr.)
17. Refusals
18. 1970's Dick Van Patten series (3 words)
24. Toward sunrise
25. Sanford and —
26. Planet nearest but one to earth
28. — Paulo, Brazil
29. Coffee container
32. Aspire
33. Repeat over
35. Oath affirmation (2 words)
36. Speech hesitation
37. Runner
38. The — Griffith Show
39. Coupe or convertible
40. Send forth
42. Beatles hit song (4 words)
48. Stout
49. Boathouse item
50. Medical drama which starred George Clooney
51. Emily of New —
53. Small branch
54. Form of address
55. Hang
56. Model MacPherson
57. Capone and Capp

Down
1. Fencing sword
2. Burt Reynolds ex.
3. Marcus Welby, —
4. Some shoes
5. Margin
6. Woe is me!
7. — Wife and Kids
8. – The World Turn
9. Restaurant offering
10. Like a bump on – – (2 words)
11. Jumble
19. Bacteria
20. This Hour — 22 Minutes
21. Actor Morales of NYPD Blue
22. Lunch time for many
23. "Strangers – a Train"
26. Screen siren West
27. "— America"
28. Droop
29. Mottled bean
30. The — Couple
31. Christmas trinket
33. Type of horse
34. Wise one
38. Be indisposed
39. Hartford state.
40. High-tech message
41. Unite
42. Sleep under the stars
43. Salve plant
44. Inert gas
45. Wail
46. Bridal accessory
47. Goofs
52. Fargo state
53. — Diem
54. Peru's continent (abbr.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		8	2		4	6		
	2		7		6		5	
6								8
		5	4	2	1	9		
		3	9	5	8	4		
2								6
	3		5		2		9	
		4	3		7	1		

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	7	8	6	1	3	2	9
6	9	1	3	4	2	5	8	7
2	3	8	9	5	7	1	4	6
4	1	2	5	7	3	9	6	8
3	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	2
8	7	9	1	2	6	4	3	5
7	6	5	2	3	4	8	9	1
9	2	3	7	1	8	6	5	4
1	8	4	6	9	5	2	7	3

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